



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LANSING

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM



June 15, 2007

TO: MPSCS Subscribers

RE: The 800 MHz Rebanding Project

This letter is to alert your organization to the 800 MHz Rebanding Project. The project will directly impact you as a MPSCS subscriber at several points of time over the next 18 months. Initially, a MPSCS representative will contact your organization by phone to verify address and contact information. They will also be able to respond to your questions and concerns about the project. The phone calls will begin June 26 and continue into the fall. This letter will provide some background on the Rebanding Project. Further information is on the Project web site: <http://www.michigan.gov/mpscs> and click on 800 MHz Rebanding Project under **Quick Links**. Please call MPSCS at 517-336-6240 if you have other concerns.

Background

The catalyst for this nation-wide project is the rapid growth of cell phone use. In particular, the Sprint-Nextel cell phone band is adjacent to the existing Public Safety 800 MHz band. The continued rapid growth in cell phone use has progressively resulted in increased interference and noise, causing services to deteriorate for many Public Safety and First Responders across the country.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) responded to this situation in June, 2004. They directed that all radios and their associated infrastructure (antennas, transmitters, etc) operating in the Public Safety 800 MHz band to be moved to a new Public Safety frequency band. This new frequency band is intended to be free of cellular interference. The FCC has "awarded" the soon to be abandoned "old" Public Safety bandwidth to Sprint-Nextel at a price. The price is that Sprint-Nextel will pay the entire cost to migrate all affected Public Safety organizations to the new Public Safety 800 MHz band. **Costs directly incurred for the project will be reimbursed by Sprint-Nextel** via a contract with the licensees (MPSCS for this system). **It is intended that there will be no cost to the system's users or their organizations!**

The FCC has scheduled Public Safety radios in Michigan to be "rebanded" beginning this year and to be completed by October, 1, 2008. Additional information on the national aspects of the Rebanding Project can be found on the FCC's Web page at www.800TA.org.

What's Next?

MPSCS has hired contractors to assist in carrying out this project. The contractors will perform the actual rebanding activities on the radios, be they portable or mobile ones. Additionally, they will also modify (retune) the antennas, receivers and transmitters that support the radios. The Rebanding Project consists of a series of phased operations:

1. Organizing a team to carry out the project

- a. MPSCS has contracted with RCC Consulting, Inc and Project Managers, LLC to provide it with the expertise and support to carry out the rebanding effort. RCC has contracted with Motorola to conduct many of the on-site and field operations. EF Johnson and Kenwood technicians will be contracted to retune their respective radios.

2. Obtaining Planning Funds from Sprint/Nextel to prepare a Rebanding Plan

- a. MPSCS, working with its consultants, submitted a proposal to the FCC's Transition Administrator (TA) and Sprint/Nextel for funding the development of a plan for rebanding all 36,000+ radios and the 210+ antenna tower sites. Funding was approved May 9, 2007.

3. Developing the Rebanding Plan

- a. An inventory must be made of the existing equipment and radios to verify their location, model # and other related information. This information will be used to define the cost of the effort that will be necessary to subsequently reband the radios and infrastructure.
- b. Every MPSCS Subscriber site will be contacted or visited by a project representative to obtain the information to create an accurate and complete inventory
 - i. Most subscribers will get a phone call from a representative of MPSCS. They will request a contact person, an address and phone number, as well as the number of various types of equipment, including radios, base stations and antennas.
 - ii. Site visits, if necessary for inventory, will be scheduled through your contact person.
 - iii. Please complete and **mail the enclosed post card** to assist us to contact your agency.
- c. This effort is expected to take 5-6 months, culminating in a Rebanding Plan and Budget to be submitted for funding by Sprint/Nextel in December of 2007.

4. Obtaining Rebanding Funds from Sprint/Nextel

- a. The Rebanding Plan submitted to Sprint/Nextel will, upon approval, provide the funds for MPSCS, through its contractors, to perform the rebanding activity.

5. Rebanding the Radios

- a. Every radio in the MPSCS inventory will have to be individually "touched" to be retuned/rebanded to the new Public Safety frequencies. Success in scheduling and rebanding will require coordination, cooperation, patience and perseverance by all of us; the consultants, local subscriber organizations and the radio users themselves.

6. Retuning the Infrastructure

- a. The antennas, transmitters and related equipment at 210 tower sites will also be retuned.

7. Certification and Acceptance Testing

- a. Our goal is to maintain our record of minimal downtime and ensuring system availability at the highest level. The final product must function the same as before rebanding.


Michigan initiated its efforts in the fall of 2006. The target date for completion of the Rebanding Plan is late fall of 2007. Upon approval of the Funding for Rebanding, the target date for completion of the Rebanding of all radios and antennas is approximately one year after, or late in 2008.

Communication

This letter of course only scratches the surface of all the activity that will be taking place. The project's Web Site at <http://www.michigan.gov/mpscs> (then click on 800 MHz Rebanding Project under **Quick Links**) will provide timely information on schedules, current status of the project, and suggestions to prepare your organization to support the initial inventory process and later on the actual rebanding effort.

Please contact us at any time to raise questions, concerns and provide suggestions to improve the process.

Sincerely;


Mike Scieszka
MPSCS - Acting Director